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644 Art. 96. Citizens of the Belorussian SSR have the right to maintenance in old age and also in case of sickness and disability.

[657] This right is ensured by the extensive development of social insurance of factory and office workers at state expense, free medical service for the working people and the provision of a wide network of health resorts for the use of the working people.

[811] Art. 98. Citizens of the Belorussian SSR have the right to education. This right is ensured by universal, compulsory elementary education; by free education up to and including the seventh grade; by a system of state stipends for outstanding students in higher educational institutions; by instruction in schools being conducted in the native language and by the organization in the factories, state farms, machine and tractor stations and collective farms of free vocational, technical and agronomic training for the working people.

● [802] Art. 97. Women in the Belorussian SSR are accorded equal rights with men in all spheres of economic, state, cultural, social and political life.

The possibility of exercising these rights is ensured to women by granting them an equal right with men to work, payment for work, rest and leisure, social insurance and education, and by state protection of the interests of mother and child, state aid to mothers of large families and to unmarried mothers, maternity leave with full pay, and the provision of a wide network of maternity homes, nurseries and kindergartens.

[563] Art. 98. Equality of rights of citizens of the Belorussian SSR, irrespective of their nationality or race, in all spheres of economic, state, cultural, social and political life, is an indefeasible law.

Any direct or indirect restriction of the rights of, or conversely, any establishment of direct or indirect privileges for, citizens on account of their race or nationality, as well as any advocacy of racial or national exclusiveness or hatred and contempt, is punishable by law.

[659] Art. 99. In order to ensure to citizens freedom of conscience, the church in the Belorussian SSR is separated from the state, and the school from the church. Freedom of religious worship and freedom of anti-religious propaganda is recognised for all citizens.

Art. 100. In conformity with the interests of the working people, and in order to strengthen the socialist system, the citizens of the Belorussian SSR are guaranteed by law:

(a) Freedom of speech;
(b) Freedom of the press;
(c) Freedom of assembly, including the holding of mass meetings;
(d) Freedom of street processions and demonstrations.

These civil rights are ensured by placing at the disposal of the working people and their organizations printing presses, stocks of paper, public buildings, the streets, communications facilities and other material requisites for the exercise of these rights.

575 641 Art. 101. In conformity with the interests of the working people, and in order to develop the organizational initiative and political activity of the masses of the people, citizens of the Belorussian SSR are ensured the right to unite in public organizations -- trade unions, co-operative associations, youth organizations,

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[66] [64] Every citizen of the Belorussian SSR who has reached the age of 21, irrespective of race or nationality, sex, religion, educational and residential qualification, social origin, property status or past activities, has the right to be elected as a deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 111. Elections of deputies are equal: each citizen has one vote; all citizens participate in elections on an equal footing.

[52] Art. 112. Women have the right to elect and be elected on equal terms with men.

Art. 113. Citizens serving in the armed forces of the USSR have the right to elect and be elected on equal terms with all other citizens.

Art. 114. Elections of deputies are direct: all Soviets of Working People's Deputies, from rural and city Soviets of Working People's Deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR, inclusive, are elected by the citizens by direct vote.

Art. 115. Voting at elections of deputies is secret.

Art. 116. Candidates for election are nominated according to electoral areas.

The right to nominate candidates is secured to public organizations and societies of the working people: Communist Party organizations, trade unions, cooperatives, youth organizations and cultural societies.

Art. 117. It is the duty of every deputy to report to his electors on his work and on the work of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies, and he is liable to be recalled at any time upon a decision of a majority of the electors in the manner established by law.

Art. 118. Elections of deputies to Soviets of Working People's Deputies of the Belorussian SSR are held by election districts on the following basis:

in elections to regional Soviets - one deputy for every 10,000 to 15,000 of the population, depending upon its size;

in elections to district Soviets - one deputy for every 1,000 of the population; in a district whose population does not exceed 25,000, twenty-five deputies are elected, and in a district whose population exceeds 60,000, not more than sixty deputies are elected;

in elections to city Soviets or city district Soviets - one deputy for every 250 to 1,000 of the population, depending upon its size; in a city or city district whose population does not exceed 12,000, thirty-five deputies are elected;

in elections to village or settlement Soviets - one deputy for every 100 of the population; in a village or settlement whose population does not exceed 1,000, nine deputies are elected, and where the population exceeds 2,500, not more than twenty-five deputies.

The basis of representation for each regional, district, city, village and settlement Soviet of Working People's Deputies is fixed in the Ordinance Concerning Elections to Regional, District, City, Village and Settlement Soviets of Working People's Deputies of the Belorussian SSR, within the range of the bases of representation indicated in the present article.